

*President's News Conference of
18 August 1949*

Harry S. Truman, 1949

Aug. 18 [182]

THE PRESIDENT. —“in common fairness—

Q. How about May, Mr. President, is she in on this, too? I notice you said *gentlemen* only?

THE PRESIDENT. And May—and all the rest of the ladies—[*laughter*]—“in common fairness suspend judgment on General Vaughan until he has been heard by the committee.”

Q. Mr. President, may I ask one question? Did I understand you to say the testimony had only been in closed sessions? There has been an open session—

THE PRESIDENT. That is what I have been informed.

Q. There have been many open sessions.
THE PRESIDENT. Most of them have been behind closed doors, particularly if they were friendly to Vaughan.

Q. Particularly *what*, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT. Particularly if they were friendly to Vaughan.

Q. May we quote that, sir?

Q. Was that the entire statement—we may quote that, sir?

THE PRESIDENT [*indicating the paper before him*]. This statement, yes.

Q. May I ask a question about admirals? [*Laughter*]

THE PRESIDENT. Sure. Fire away.

[2.] Q. It has been reported that Admiral Hillenkoetter ⁴ is going to be replaced. Could you say anything about it?

THE PRESIDENT. Admiral Hillenkoetter is an appointee of mine, and when he is replaced it will be announced here. I have no one under consideration to take his place, and he will not be replaced. That is about as emphatic as I can make it.

[3.] Q. Mr. President, Secretary Brannan is stumping the country for his farm

plan. Shouldn't he be here more?

THE PRESIDENT. I couldn't hear you?

Q. Secretary Brannan is stumping the country for his farm plan. I think he has made about 10 speeches. Shouldn't his job keep him here more?

THE PRESIDENT. He is available whenever he is needed. He is on that tour at my suggestion.

[4.] Q. Mr. President, have you any comment on the Housing Expediter's decision to decontrol one-third of the rent control—

THE PRESIDENT. The only comment that I have to make is that the Congress did not appropriate enough money to enforce the rent control law, and all the Expediter can do is to use as much money as the Congress gave him. That's the only thing—that's all the trouble. We suggested to the Congress that they give him more money. There was more money in the budget for that purpose.

[5.] Q. Mr. President, considering the terrible reports of the earthquake suffered in Ecuador, would you wish to comment further on anything in the way of encouraging relief—

THE PRESIDENT. I think Dean Acheson covered that thoroughly yesterday; and it was done—his statement was made after consultation with me.⁵

[6.] Q. Mr. President, have the Mexican oil loan negotiations been resumed?

THE PRESIDENT. They are still under contemplation—under consideration. I don't know whether actually they have been resumed or not.

Q. Did you read the aide memoir between the two countries?

THE PRESIDENT. What?

Q. Did you read the aide memoir?

THE PRESIDENT. Yes Ma'am, I did.

⁴Rear Adm. Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter, Director, Central Intelligence Agency.

⁵See Department of State Bulletin, vol. 21, pp. 312-313.